

**Washington, DC** – Congressman Earl Blumenauer (D-Ore.) today released a report analyzing 31 Medicare-approved prescription drug cards available to seniors in Oregon's 3rd Congressional District. The report shows that the drug cards are failing to provide significant discounts for seniors.

"This report proves what Oregonians already know, that the administration's Medicare Reform bill didn't do anything to help seniors with the high cost of prescription drugs," said Blumenauer. "For too long Oregon's seniors have had to choose between meals and medicine or have skimped on their medications. We need real reform that will mean real savings for Oregonians."

The report, prepared by the Minority Staff of the House Committee on Government Reform, analyzed the top ten drugs used by seniors and compared the average prices available through the drug discount cards to the drug prices available through reimportation from Canada, the Veterans Administration, and retail outlets. The report finds that with the exception of some low-income seniors, who receive a \$600 subsidy to help pay for drugs when they sign up for the cards, most seniors will see few, if any, benefits.

For example, the report shows that a 30-day supply of Prevacid, an ulcer medication, would cost \$104.56 to \$131.43 with one of the prescription drug discount cards, compared to only \$56.54 in Canada, a price difference of 85% to 132%. The same 30-day supply of Prevacid can be purchased through the Veterans Administration for only \$53.90. A 30-day supply of Prevacid purchased at retail outlets costs about \$120.99, around the same price as the drug would cost with a discount card.

The Medicare discount drug cards were created as part of the controversial Medicare Modernization Act approved by Congress last year. Blumenauer voted against the act arguing it would do nothing to bring down the cost of prescription drugs or provide significant savings for seniors.